

**December 4, 2009**

**WASHINGTON, DC** - U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) joined U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (OR-4) and other House members yesterday to announce their plans to introduce legislation to spur job creation and pay down the federal deficit by assessing a fee on Wall Street trades in excess of \$100,000 annually.

"The economy is beginning to show signs of recovery, but there's more to be done," **Arcuri said**. "I refuse to sit idly by as reports continue to surface of excessive Wall Street executive bonuses and record profits while hardworking American families and small businesses struggle to make ends meet. This bill will spur much needed job creation and reduce the federal deficit by reigning in the greed on Wall Street."

The "Let Wall Street Pay for the Restoration of Main Street Act" would assess a small securities transaction tax on Wall Street which will be invested in the current needs of the United States economy. A securities transaction tax would be applied to stock transactions (0.25%), futures (0.02%), swaps (0.02%), credit default swaps (0.02%), and options.

To ensure the tax is appropriately targeted to speculators and has no impact on the average investor or pension funds, the tax would be refunded for:

- Certain retirement accounts;
- Education savings accounts;
- Health savings accounts, and
- The first \$100,000 of transactions placed by an investor annually.

Half the revenue generated by this transaction tax (approximately \$75 billion) would be deposited in a Job Creation Reserve to fund the creation of good paying jobs and put Americans back to work rebuilding our nation's infrastructure. Each \$1 billion of Federal infrastructure investment creates or sustains over 34,000 American jobs and \$6.2 billion in economic activity. The second half of the revenue generated by this transaction tax would be used to directly reduce the federal deficit.

"Upstate New Yorkers want job opportunities, and investing in infrastructure improvements has proven time and again to create jobs and economic activity," Arcuri continued. "It's time to take the next step in our economic recovery and create more jobs."

The United States had a similar transfer tax from 1914 to 1966. In 1914, Congress levied a 0.2 percent tax on all sales or transfers of stock. In 1932, it more than doubled the tax to help financial recovery and job creation during the Great Depression. The United Kingdom currently levies a similar tax, and still has the highest trading volume of any financial exchange in Europe.

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